

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

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TAGS: SOPN, CH, TW

SUBJECT: STATEMENTS ON PRC, AND ROC

REF: PEKING 878

FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS FROM PRESIDENT FORD'S MAY 6
PRESS CONFERENCE:

IT'S MY JUDGMENT THAT WE CAN MOVE AHEAD EVEN IN THE
PACIFIC. WE'LL HAVE TO--NOT REASSESS BUT ASSESS HOW WE
CAN PROCEED. BUT IT'S MY AIM TO TIE MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER
SOUTH KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES, TO REAFFIRM OUR
COMMITMENTS TO TAIWAN, TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH
INDONESIA, WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND WITH OTHER PACIFIC
NATIONS.

THESE ARE THE KIND OF, I BELIEVE, FORWARD MOVEMENTS IN
FOREIGN POLICY THAT'LL BE BENEFICIAL IN THE MAINTENANCE OF
PEACE.

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FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS FROM RONALD NESSEN'S MAY 7
PRESS BRIEFING:

QUESTION: RON, DID THE PRESIDENT GO FURTHER THAN THE

SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE IN HIS COMMENT ON TAIWAN?

MR. NESSEN: NO. I DON'T THINK SO. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GO FURTHER?

QUESTION: DID HE TAKE A FIRM POSITION IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN BUT IT WAS NOT SPELLED OUT IN THAT COMMUNIQUE?

MR. NESSEN: NO, HE WAS EXPRESSING THE FACT THAT WE VALUE OUR RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN, BUT I DON'T THINK HE WENT BEYOND WHAT HE SAID BEFORE PUBLICLY.

QUESTION: RON, IN CONNECTION WITH THAT, IN A RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE--NOT THE SAN DIEGO ONE, IT WAS ONE OF THOSE IN THE SOUTH--HE WAS SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF HE WAS REAFFIRMING THE U.S. COMMITMENT IN TAIWAN, AND HE DID NOT DO SO. HE DID NOT DO SO. HE JUST SORT OF SKIRTED THAT DIRECT QUESTION AND USED MORE GENERAL LANGUAGE.

MR. NESSEN: YOU MEAN THE DEFENSE TREATY WITH TAIWAN?

QUESTION: YES.

MR. NESSEN: NO. WE MAINTAIN ALL OF THAT COMMITMENT.

QUESTION: BUT HE SPECIFICALLY VOLUNTEERED THAT LANGUAGE LAST NIGHT AND I WONDERED WHAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT WAS.

MR. NESSEN: NONE.

QUESTION: RON, DID WE HAVE ANY COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRC BEFORE THAT, ANY TIP-OFF THAT HE WAS GOING TO SPEAK IN THAT STRONG A LANGUAGE?

MR. NESSEN: I DISAGREE WITH ANY SUGGESTION THAT THERE WAS ANY SORT OF POLICY SHIFT LAST NIGHT IN HIS STATEMENT.
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QUESTION: OUR PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ARE REPORTING THAT THE CHINESE DIPLOMATS ARE SCURRYING AROUND WITH SOME LITTLE CONCERN ABOUT THE WHOLE THING.

MR. NESSEN: LET ME SAY FLATLY THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOT ANY CHANGE IN POLICY TOWARD THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC IS A CARDINAL ELEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOREIGN POLICY AND HE REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, SETS A GENERAL DIRECTION ON AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD THE PRC.

QUESTION: WOULD HE DISPUTE REPORTS THAT THIS IN ANY WAY MIGHT JEOPARDIZE THE TRIP?

MR. NESSEN: THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES JUST WHAT HE TOLD CONGRESS ON APRIL 10TH, WHICH IS THAT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO VISITING THE PRC LATER THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO SEEK WAYS TO ACCELERATE THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC.

QUESTION: ISN'T HE ASKING FOR IT BOTH WAYS, REALLY?
I THINK OUR FRIEND HERE CAN ANSWER. ON THE QUESTION OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, DIDN'T WE REALLY SAY THAT WE AGREED THAT CHINA HAS THE SOVEREIGNTY OVER TAIWAN, BASICALLY?

QUESTION: NO, WE SAID BOTH SIDES --

QUESTION: RON, THESE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE KNOWN CHINESE POSITION, THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN DETENTE UNTIL THE UNITED STATES HAS DONE SOMETHING ABOUT ITS COMMITMENTS TO TAIWAN. THAT IS A FACT.

MR. NESSEN: THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN ASKED THAT VERY QUESTION AT LEAST TWO OR THREE TIMES THAT I AM AWARE OF AND I THINK WHAT HE HAS TOLD YOU IS HE JUST DOES NOT FEEL IT IS PROFITABLE TO SPECULATE ON THAT MATTER OR TO HAVE A SPECULATIVE DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER AT THIS
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TIME.

QUESTION: BUT IT IS A FACT, RON, ISN'T IT, THAT THIS IS CHINA'S POSITION OFTEN EXPRESSED IN REGARD TO COMMITMENTS TO TAIWAN?

MR. NESSEN: I THINK THAT I ANSWERED YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AND HOPEFULLY DEALT WITH THE QUESTION THAT STEVE RAISED. I DON'T THINK IT IS POSSIBLE TO GO BEYOND THAT.

QUESTION: ISN'T IT A FACT, THOUGH, RON, SINCE THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE THAT NO SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS, UNTIL SECRETARY SCHLESINGER BROUGHT IT UP THE OTHER DAY, HAVE PUBLICLY FLOUTED THE AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT AND THE TREATIES WITH THEM?

MR. NESSEN: I AM NOT SURE I AGREE WITH YOUR CHOICE OF WORDS, TOM.

QUESTION: FORGET FLOUTED, BUT PUBLICLY STATED THE COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN?

MR. NESSEN: AS I TOLD JIM, WE DO HAVE A DEFENSE TREATY WITH TAIWAN AND THE PRESIDENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO THAT. HIS CHOICE OF WORDS LAST NIGHT WAS THAT HE AFFIRMED OR REAFFIRMED WHATEVER THAT COMMITMENT IS.

QUESTION: HAS THAT BEEN DONE PUBLICLY EXCEPT BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND THE PRESIDENT LAST NIGHT SINCE THE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS HERE AND WHEN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED.

MR. NESSEN: I AM NOT THAT FAMILIAR WITH THE TOTAL PUBLIC RECORD, TOM. I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE TOTAL PUBLIC RECORD.

QUESTION: RON, CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT SOUTH KOREA? I KNOW YOU DISCUSSED IT EARLIER, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU SPECIFICALLY ANSWERED THE QUESTION OF WHAT THE PRESIDENT WANTED DONE IN THE WAY OF STRENGTHENING TIES, THAT IS, UNCLASSIFIED

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DOES HE WANT MORE MONEY TO BE SPENT IN SOUTH KOREA OR MORE AMERICAN TROOPS THERE OR WHAT DID HE HAVE IN MIND?

MR. NESSEN: YOU HAD NOT COME IN, BUT HE TALKED ABOUT MAKING SURE THAT SOUTH KOREA DOES UNDERSTAND OUR DEFENSE TREATY APPROVED BY CONGRESS, AND SO FORTH. THAT WE STAND BY THAT AND AFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO IT AND ALSO TO LET NORTH KOREA KNOW HOW WE WOULD RESPOND TO ANY INCREASED TENSIONS.

NOW, AS FOR ANY STEPS BEYOND THAT, I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANY DETAILS TODAY.

QUESTION: RON, I WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW THIS UP. APPARENTLY, THE PRESIDENT SEEMS TO FEEL THAT SOUTH KOREA IS THREATENED IN SOME WAY. WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD THESE TIES, AS YOU KNOW, AND YOU CANNOT GET INTO ANY SPECIFICS ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS DONE TO STRENGTHEN THEM, AS HE SAID LAST NIGHT, AND AT THE SAME TIME, HE, IN EFFECT, LINKED SOUTH KOREA WITH TAIWAN BY MENTIONING, VOLUNTEERING, IN THE SAME PARAGRAPH, WITH RECOMMITMENT TO OUR DEFENSE OF TAIWAN.

IS HE TRYING TO WARN THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS THAT THEY HAD BETTER NOT TRY TO MOVE AGAINST THE SOUTH TOGETHER WITH NORTH KOREA? IS THAT WHAT IS BEHIND THIS?

MR. NESSEN: LET ME STRAIGHTEN OUT ONE THING, FIRST. KOREA WAS MENTIONED IN THE SAME PARAGRAPH, AS YOU SAY, ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS A SPECIFIC ANSWER DEALING WITH RELATIONS IN THE PACIFIC.

BUT TO GO BEYOND THAT, THE PRESIDENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS RELEASED AT THE CONCLUSION OF KIM IL-SUNG'S VISIT TO CHINA WAS THAT CHINA SUPPORTS A POLICY OF PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE.

QUESTION: DID HE HAVE THAT IN MIND, THEN? IS THAT WHAT HE WAS REFERRING TO, THE KIM IL-SUNG MEETING IN PEKING AND THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND CHINA, UNCLASSIFIED

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IS THAT WHAT HE WAS REALLY THINKING ABOUT?

MR. NESSEN: I THINK YOU ARE EXAMINING THESE WORDS A LITTLE TOO CLOSELY. I THINK HE WAS STATING GENERAL POLICY IN THESE AREAS.

FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MAY 6 TODAY SHOW INTERVIEW:

MISS WALTERS: WE TALK OF DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION, BUT HOW DO WE RECONCILE DETENTE WITH THE COUNTRY THAT AIDS THE COLLAPSE OF AN ALLY WE ARE COMMITTED TO DEFEND?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT DETENTE REPRESENTS. THE SOVIET UNION IS A COUNTRY THAT WE RECOGNIZE AS IDEOLOGICALLY HOSTILE. THE SOVIET UNION IS A GREAT POWER THAT IS IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD OPERATING COMPETITIVELY WITH US. THE SOVIET UNION IS ALSO A COUNTRY THAT POSSESSES AN ENORMOUS NUCLEAR ARSENAL AND WITH WHICH WE HAVE CERTAIN INTERESTS IN COMMON SUCH AS THE PREVENTION OF GENERAL NUCLEAR WAR, SUCH AS LIMITING CONFLICT IN AREAS WHERE BOTH OF US COULD GET DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

IN THOSE AREAS DETENTE HAS WORKED REASONABLY WELL. WHAT WE CANNOT ASK THE SOVIET UNION TO DO IS TO KEEP ITSELF FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SITUATIONS IN WHICH, FOR WHATEVER REASONS, WE DO NOT DO WHAT IS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE.

IT IS TRUE THAT SOVIET ARMS MADE THE CONQUEST OF SOUTH VIET-NAM POSSIBLE. IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT THE REFUSAL OF AMERICAN ARMS MADE THE CONQUEST OF SOUTH VIET-NAM INEVITABLE.

THEREFORE, WHILE THE SOVIET UNION DOES HAVE A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY, WE CANNOT EXPECT THE SOVIET UNION TO POLICE THE WORLD FOR US AND WE HAVE TO BE MATURE ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE TO CO-EXIST, EVEN IN A COMPETITIVE WORLD, AND PERHAPS HOPEFULLY BE ABLE TO MODERATE OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS THE COMPETITION IN PERIPHERAL AREAS.

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NOW EVENTUALLY THE SOVIET UNION MUST REALIZE THAT IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ACTIONS EVEN IN PERIPHERAL AREAS.

BUT AS A BASIC RELATIONSHIP DETENTE HAS NEVER MEANT THE ABSENCE OF COMPETITION.

MISS WALTERS: WHERE DOES CHINA STAND NOW AS A RESULT OF THE FALL OF SAIGON?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WELL, CHINA NOW HAS 40 MILLION VIETNAMESE ON ITS FRONTIERS WHO DO NOT EXACTLY SUFFER FROM A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES. I THINK CHINA WILL LOOK AT THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE OVERALL BALANCE OF POWER, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ITS OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS. I THINK IT WILL CONCLUDE THAT THE POLICY THAT LED IT TO UNDERTAKE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES REMAINS THE BEST COURSE FOR IT, JUST AS WE BELIEVE THAT THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF AMERICAN POLICY WHICH WILL BE MAINTAINED.

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